

Carson Chronicle

CARSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

FALL 2020

CMS News

Chronicle Editors: **Hallie Dong, Juliet Guttendorf, Sadie Kim, Rachel McLaughlin**

A New School Year

By Juliet Forrest

This school year, things have been a bit crazy, but we're all in the same boat. Everyone has their own opinions on this new way of learning.

Even though this school year is not starting out as normal, students find the positives. For

example, Abbie Woods (6th grade) says, "I love being able to meet new people and have new opportunities." Despite this year being a hybrid model, Abbie is still finding new ways to make friends. 7th grader, JJ Gruszewski says, "I like going on the bus with barely anyone on it, because it's way quieter." Carson students are great at looking on the bright side of things!

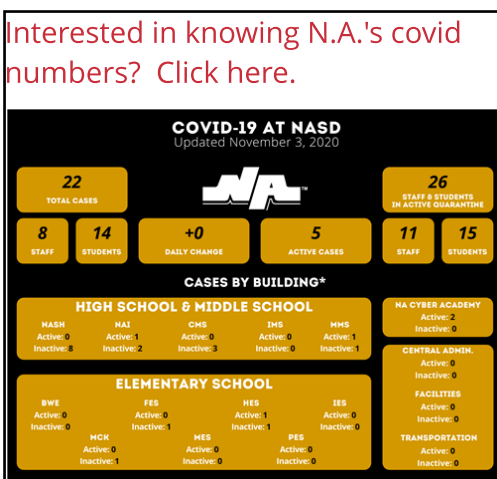
Sanitation stations, distancing and masks are things Carson students have needed to make part of their routine. It is clear that the Carson students who know the school the best are the ones who miss the way things used to be. Neely Cameron (8th grade) says, "I miss not having to worry about sanitation, and masks." Getting used to masks is hard, but something even harder for students is not being able to see their friends. Gruszewski says, "I miss being able to see my friends all at once."

These are all things we miss, but Carson students have a way of adapting and rising above the challenge.

There have been some hiccups this year. For example, Woods says, "sometimes Blackboard glitches, but I get it." Neely also says, "Blackboard crashes constantly, and sometimes it can get extremely slow." It seems like Blackboard is the source of some difficulty, but CMS students



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Among Us--The Science of Trends, Fashions, and More

By Hallie Dong

Among Us. You've probably heard of it by now. If not, you've probably seen it by now. You know, the little potato dudes in their funny little spacesuits and curious-looking helmets. I first saw when my friend changed her profile picture, and I asked what it was. She said, "Among Us". I was like "Ohhhhhh....Kay." Down below is a picture of what it looks like.



The point is, this entertaining and now trending game is on fire with popularity, yet it seemingly came out of nowhere. *Among Us* was first released by American game studio sometime in 2018. It's been two years. Why is it suddenly popular now?

To understand this, first we must explore how trends occur in the first place. I'll just jump right into this. First and foremost, most games become popular when people with large influences introduce them to their audiences. I think Among Us is a very good game, which is the reason it will be picked up by more and more people. The reason that it became popular in a very short amount of time has more to do with the ads from famous gamers. The sustained increase in popularity has more to do with the quality of the game. You can understand this by applying real-life examples, such as Minecraft YouTubers and other gaming YouTubers. Usually, when one game gets popular, more people follow this trend to try to reach a bigger audience for more views, and it practically blows up. As an example, we'll look at Minecraft users in the past two years until the present.

During quarantine, a Minecraft YouTuber, Dream, and his friend, GeorgeNotFound, gained popularity by the millions, which is another topic I'm going to explore in another article. For now we'll just focus on the data. Currently, Dream has 10.4 million subscribers, and George, 3.5 million. In fact, in June of 2019, Dream had *only 3 subscribers*. With these facts in mind, the statistics website says that Minecraft started gaining popularity in May 2020, with an increase of *24 million copies* from the previous year. Now, this was about the same time that people started noticing Dream. Can you see what's happening? These YouTubers' popularity is increasing the popularity of the game itself. This even has a name! It's called the "PewDiePie Effect". I find that quite interesting. As a result, more and more people catch on-hoping to take advantage of the trend.

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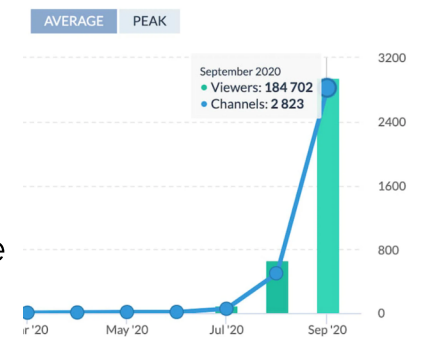
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From this evidence, you can clearly see that this is possibly what happened to *Among Us*. In fact, it is factual to say that in 2020, well-known Twitch streamers have been playing the game, leading to more people playing the game.

The other day, YouTuber MrBeast actually uploaded a video on *Among Us*, thus showing how big the impacts of a popular game are, and how quickly people want to join a trend. A little known game can gain popularity simply and then PewDiePie spreads like wildfire.

According to a statistic chart on *Among Us*, in the last thirty days, there has been more than a 500% gain of average players. That's more than 95 thousand players playing! In fact, if you take a look at previous statistics, the numbers are mostly less than 250 average players. In this month alone, more than 100,000 players have been playing.



To the people who don't like numbers: These are just... the numbers. The statistics. The facts. The reason I'm writing this article is not to present to you already-known facts, but to extend analysis, reasoning and critical thinking skills and explore more of the *how* and *why*, instead of the *what*. But... sometimes information is extremely helpful. The next reason that *Among Us* has become popular in such a short amount of time also has to do with our human nature and techniques that harness that along with the correct timing, and less about trends and grabbing attention. In *Among Us*, for those of you who don't know yet, is a game where little astronauts in spacesuits go around completing tasks on the spaceship. The only catch—there is an imposter among them. (That's why it's called "Among Us"; there is an imposter(s) *among us*.) What none of them know—is *who* the imposter(s) is. The imposter is allowed to kill people, but the technique is to do it when no one else is around; otherwise the death will be immediately reported, the crime revealed by the person who saw, and the imposter voted out and thrown out of the spaceship (kind of violent, in my opinion). The trick for the non-imposters is to stay in groups in order to avoid the imposter. Sometimes though, the imposter will purposely try to stay with groups in order to look less suspicious. And here... *here* is where the game gets good. Like, *really* good.

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Lourdes, France - A Place for Healing

By: Rachel McLaughlin

In Lourdes, France, in a tucked away area, lies Lourdes water, flowing from a spring in the Grotto of Massabielle. If you think that it's just a normal, popular tourist attraction, you'd be wrong. The location of the spring was found in 1858, and since then, many people have traveled thousands of miles to bathe and drink from the spring, for one reason- to receive healing from health conditions.



Over 7,000 people from the Christian faith have traveled to the spring throughout recent history and were healed from a variety of illnesses as soon as they stepped into the spring's water. People have reported being healed from conditions as serious as cancer, heart disease, and even paralysis. The authorities of this spring offer free access to anyone who asks for it. There are seventeen bath cubicles within the spring- eleven for women, and six for men, and the water is around 54°F.

The healing property of the spring was officially declared supernatural in 2018, after the 70th Lourdes miracle recognized by the Catholic Church occurred.

On February 11th, the World Day of the Sick and the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, Bernadette Moriau was healed. She was a French nun who had been suffering from spinal complications, which had left her fully disabled since 1980. After attending a blessing for the sick at the Our Lady of Lourdes shrine and drinking from the spring, she noticed an immediate change. She stated in an interview, "I felt a surge of well-being throughout my body, a relaxation, warmth...I returned to my room and there, a voice told me to 'take off your braces'. Surprise, I could move." She then noted that she instantaneously got up from her wheelchair, removed her braces, and then was completely free of pain. Her case was brought to the attention of the International Medical Committee of Lourdes, where her recovery was extensively researched. They came to a conclusion that her healing could not be scientifically explained. There are many other wellness centers and places in the world with water that claim to have healing properties, but Lourdes is the only one that has been linked with true miracles to those who visit it.

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You see, this whole thing is a mind game. A game of reverse psychology. You never know what is going to happen, and the suspense kills you until the last second, and then you find out who the imposter really is. In the chat, you discuss with your peers who the imposter might be, as well as the evidence, while the imposter discreetly tries to look as innocent as possible. This is number one: the excitement and unpredictability.

Number two—the feeling of achievement. When you spot the killer killing an innocent crew member and get your votes approved, or when you complete a task without getting killed, or guess the correct answer, it is so exciting and rewarding. I think that these days, we all want this excitement in our lives, since Corona Virus has definitely impacted this aspect of society, staying home, staying safe (which is a *very good thing*, don't get me wrong).

The third and final point—during quarantine, we have been so socially distant from each other, and even when school has opened, that we might *miss* the chance of working together and sticking together—no matter who is right or wrong. It also gives us a chance to prove that we *can*, indeed, defeat our enemies together, the same with Corona Virus, and this game gives us a way of doing that while having fun.

In all, trends such as *Among Us* have been constantly rising to advantage on the battlefield of the modern era, fighting a good fight, and leaving. But, it's time we analyze it. Give reasons. Examine every nook and cranny. Because while trends may come and go, let's let the excitement stay.

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Knit for Hope - "Why Just Knit When You can KnitHope?"

By Juliet Guttendorf

KnitHope is a wonderful organization that began in 2008. They provide a much needed program every fall. KnitHope receives donations of handmade scarves and hats from community members to be delivered to those in need in our local Pittsburgh community. KnitHope says that "While



these scarves provide needed physical warmth for our city's winters, these homemade items also send a much needed message to those who may be struggling, that people in their community care about them." Making these garments for people in need has such a large positive impact on our community.

As Dana Getz, the founder of KnitHope, says, "Someone receiving a handmade item receives much more than a hat. They receive someone's time, effort and care." She believes that this can make the person feel cared for since they are receiving a handmade item. This is a true gift that these hats and scarves can lift someone's spirit. Sometimes we all need a little boost in life to know that people care, that we are wanted, that everything is going to be okay. One hat or one scarf can mean the world to someone and be that reassuring thought.

While the deadline to donate these homemade hats and scarves has already passed, KnitHope has been doing this for many years, so you can start now and donate next September! You can even just donate yarn so that people who do have the time to make the scarves and hats will have supplies readily available to them. You don't even have to be good at knitting or crocheting to be able to make a hat or scarf! You can learn some very easy methods using just your favorite yarn, your fingers, and a tutorial! There are also lots of inexpensive kits that will get you looms or hooks to make different styles of scarves and hats.



Here are some tips and [guidelines](#) from the [KnitHope website](#) to making the hats and scarves:

- KnitHope needs gender neutral black or grey hats the most. They are the most requested item, and sets are popular, too.

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- Scarves should be around 40 - 60 inches long and about five inches across. It does not need to be exact, just long enough to tie it around someone's neck. You can make a neck wrap or a scarf for a child, you just indicate that on the packaging.



KnitHope

- KnitHope encourages you to be creative in yarns and colors! Just keep in mind that the scarf or hat might go to either a male or female recipient. This is why gender neutral patterns/colors are wanted and encouraged. By the way, the Pittsburgh recipients love the black/gold patterns.



- You are able to use any kind of yarn, but don't use wool, mohair, or any other type of yarn that might be irritating to the recipients' skin. Also make sure that there's no pet hair before donating.

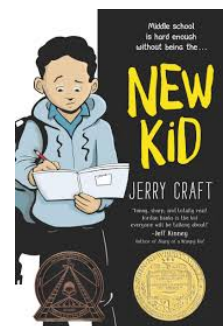
Once you are done with your scarves and hats, put them in a zip top bag. You can include a note with positive thoughts for your recipient, but you don't have to. You can include your first name, or if applicable, your group's name. You will be able to donate your hat and scarf with the thought of how much you are helping the community and how happy you are going to make someone. You can visit the KnitHope

website for more information about how you can help: [Why just knit when you can KnitHope?](#)

The 90 Second Newbery Film Festival

This is an annual video in which young filmmakers create movies that tell the entire stories of ANY **Newbery winning books** in about 90 seconds. Who can make movies? Anyone in elementary, middle, high school, or even college aged students. These ingenious, hilarious, impressive movies have included clay mation, puppet shows, Minecraft, and of course, live performances. *Here are the best 90*

second videos to date. The submission deadline is January 15, 2021. Want more details? [Click here!](#)

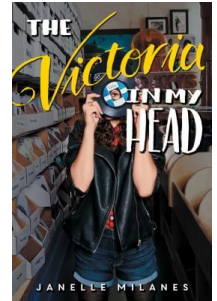


15 Activities You Can Do When You Are Bored

By: Sadie Kim

Do you ever find yourself having nothing to do nowadays? Are you ever so bored that you actually wish to play yet *another* round of cards with your grandparents? Well you're in luck! During quarantine when you have nothing to do, or when you are simply trying to find something fun to entertain yourself with, take a look at these 15 activities you can try.

1. **Read a book**—There is *never* not a good time to curl up and read your favorite book. Whether you are under a lovely hammock or snuggled up in your living room sofa, reading books are a really good way to tone down all that stress that builds up during the week. Here is a list of [39 books all teens should read](#).

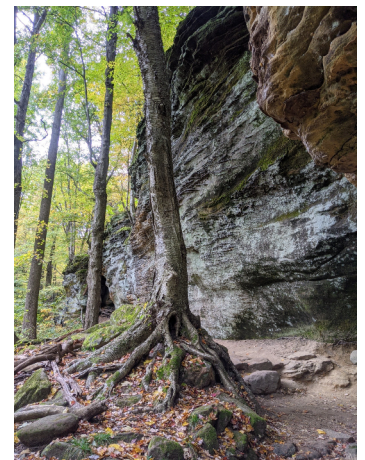


2. **Play a board game with your family**—Playing board games can improve your critical thinking and problem solving skills, plus it's fun! It's also a great way to build stronger relationships with those around you.



3. **Take a walk outdoors**—Getting fresh air and Vitamin D is crucial to staying focused and healthy. Depending on your preference, taking a walk during this pandemic may seem like a bad idea, but you can still find a way. Walk around your backyard 100 times if you have to!

4. **Watch a movie**—Now I'm not talking about binge-watching your favorite TV show on Netflix until 4am in the morning on a school night...but it is nice to occasionally watch a movie under some blankets with a bowl of popcorn! Here are [10 good teen movies from 2020](#).



5. **Create a bucket list**—Creating a bucket list can help you stay organized and eager for the future. It can also carve out your interests from everyday activities. If you already have a bucket list, consider making a scrapbook or writing in a journal.

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15 Activities You Can Do When You Are Bored....

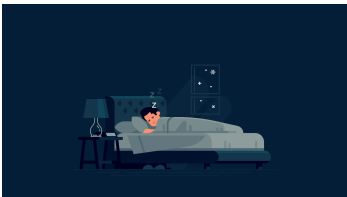
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6. **Bake a treat**—Mmm! Baking is not only enjoyable, but is also extremely tasty! Even if you aren't too talented in the kitchen, simply toasting a PopTart is one step closer to becoming the next Gordon Ramsay! If you're aiming for something healthier, prepare a fruit salad or a refreshing smoothie.

7. **Write back to old pen-pals**—Once in a while, go through old letters from pen-pals and write back to some! Creating friends from different places is a great opportunity to make connections.



8. **Play with pets**—To those who have pets: play with your pup, entertain your cats, give some indoor pets some fresh air, etc! Most pets *adore* when their owners spend time with them—even if it's just to snuggle up beside them to watch a movie or read a book. No pets? Desperately set up a tea party with your little sibling's stuffed animals. Want to adopt a pet? Visit Animal Friends on Camp Horne Road.



9. **Sleep**— Sleep. Sleep! That's pretty much it. Just sleep. No Netflix or TikTok. Just sleep. We all need to catch up on rest. Good night!

10. **Donate or virtually volunteer** — Donating canned food to a local Food Bank or providing any virtual assistance to an elderly's home or a dog shelter will get you a long way in life. You may not realize it, but it really improves your overall character and will make a difference in the not-so-easy condition we are currently living in.

11. **Catch up on school work**—To follow a path of academic success, keep up with school work and studying. You can never study enough! Catch up on school assignments and homework because it is better late than never. If you are all up to date, try optional assignments.



12. **Meditate**—Get into that zen moment! Practice mindfulness by taking 10 minutes

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A New School Year

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persevere. This situation can be especially difficult for students who are remote-only learners. Jenna Parker (6th grade) says, "Overall, they've (the teachers) done a really good job of getting the website up within a reasonable amount of time."

Even though this was not what we planned for this year, Carson students have shown some real Tiger Pride, and there's more pride where that came from; because this is only the beginning. GO TIGERS!

15 Activities You Can Do When You Are Bored....

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or more to meditate and ease your mind. You can do [square breathing](#), [big belly balloon breaths](#), or simply close your eyes and *BREATHE*. If you don't like any of these exercises, browse YouTube for some guided meditations or how-to tutorials.

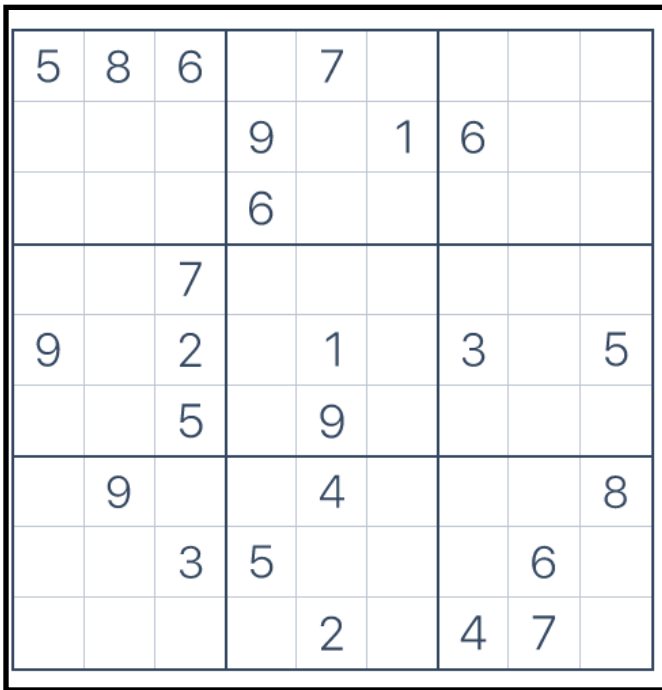
13. **Organize your space**—Clean up and organize your work space, binder, room, closet, locker, etc! The list is countless! And have a little fun while doing it. Jam to your favorite artists and show off your *interesting* moves!

14. **Organize a virtual meetup with friends**—Host a FaceTime dance off, Zoom barbecue, or just chat with friends through Skype. Though these rough times have been challenging for all of us, there are ways to stay in touch with friends.

15. **WASH YOUR HANDS!**—Especially during this pandemic, maintaining good hygiene is important, so be sure to scrub for 20 seconds!



Games!



Can YOU
Sudoku?

